Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fault message system, comprising:

a plurality of spatially distributed production units, each production unit comprising means for generating and indicating fault signals, each production unit being associated with a transmitting unit configured to wirelessly transmit the fault signals, two or more of said plurality of spatially distributed production units being arranged to form a plurality of groups of the two or more spatially distributed production units;

a fault alarm box configured to receive the fault signals and forward fault messages;

a process computer configured to receive the fault messages from the fault alarm box; and

a plurality of spatially distributed stationary data receiving units configured to transmit the fault signals to the fault alarm box, each of the plurality of spatially distributed stationary data receiving units comprising a lamp, each of the plurality of spatially distributed stationary data receiving units being configured to wirelessly receive the fault signals from one of the plurality of groups of the two or more spatially distributed production units and to indicate the fault signals, the lamp being configured to visually display the fault signals;

wherein each respective one of the plurality of groups of the two or more spatially distributed productions units is associated with a respective one of the plurality of spatially distributed stationary data receiving units.

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2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The fault message system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fault alarm box is connected to the process computer via a network connection.

4. (Currently Amended) The fault message system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the network connection is a <u>local area network (LAN)</u> connection.

5. (Previously Presented) The fault message system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the process computer is connected to other computers via a second network.

6. (Previously Presented) The fault message system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fault alarm box comprises a data editing unit.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for outputting fault messages from a number of spatially distributed production units forming a plurality of groups of <u>two or more of said spatially distributed</u> production units, the method comprising:

        generating a method fault signal by at least one of said spatially distributed production units <u>of the plurality of groups of two or more of the spatially distributed production units</u>;

        wirelessly transmitting, from the at least one of said spatially distributed production units, the method fault signal to a stationary data receiving unit of a plurality of <u>spatially distributed</u> stationary data receiving units;

visually displaying the method fault signal with a lamp in the stationary

data receiving unit of the plurality of <u>spatially distributed</u> stationary data receiving

units;

forwarding, from the stationary data receiving unit of the plurality of

<u>spatially distributed</u> stationary data receiving units, said method fault signal to a

fault alarm box;

wirelessly transmitting a fault message from said fault alarm box to one or

more data receiving devices configured for receiving and indicating fault

messages; and

transmitting the fault message from said fault alarm box to a process

computer.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method claimed in claim 7, wherein the fault signals of the

<u>spatially distributed</u> production units are edited in the fault alarm box for conversion into fault

messages.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein a fault signal is

only converted into a fault message in the fault alarm box when it is present for a predetermined

period of time.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein a fault signal is only converted into a fault message in the fault alarm box when a particular period of time has elapsed since the last presence of the previous fault signal.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the fault message is supplied to the process computer at a different time than the fault message is supplied to said data receiving devices.

13. (Currently Amended) A fault message system, comprising:

a plurality of production units, each production unit being associated with a transmitting unit configured to wirelessly transmit fault signals relating to said production unit;

a plurality of spatially distributed stationary data receiving units configured to wirelessly receive the fault signals from at least one of the plurality of production units, each of the plurality of spatially distributed stationary data receiving units comprising a lamp for visually displaying the fault signals;

a plurality of groups comprising a number of said plurality of production units, each respective one of the plurality of groups being associated with a respective one of the plurality of spatially distributed stationary data receiving units configured to wirelessly receive fault signals transmitted by the transmitting unit associated with any production unit in said respective group;

a fault alarm box configured to receive the fault signals from said plurality of spatially distributed stationary data receiving units; and

a process computer configured to receive a fault message from said fault alarm.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a receiving device for receiving the fault message from said fault alarm.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the receiving device is a mobile telephone.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said fault message is sent as ~~an~~ a short message service (SMS) message.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein each group is comprised of a plurality of production units of an individual production line.

19. - 20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said production units are spatially separated.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said fault signals are transmitted via wireless transmission.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said process computer is configured to document and evaluate fault messages from said fault alarm.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said process computer is connected to said fault alarm via a network connection.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said fault alarm has a data editing means for determining when to send the fault message from said fault alarm.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said fault alarm is configured to send said fault message only when a fault signal received by said stationary data receiving unit is present for a first predetermined period of time.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said fault alarm is configured to send a second fault message only when a second predetermined period of time has passed following the end of the fault signal present for the first predetermined period of time.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for outputting fault messages; comprising:

generating a first fault signal at a production unit of a plurality of groups

of two or more production units;

wirelessly transmitting said first fault signal from the production unit to a

stationary data receiving unit of a plurality of spatially distributed stationary data

receiving units respectively associated with said plurality of groups of two or

more production units;

visually displaying the first fault signal with a lamp associated with the

stationary data receiving unit of the plurality of spatially distributed stationary

data receiving units;

transmitting said first fault signal from said stationary data receiving unit

to a fault alarm;

determining whether to send a fault message from said fault alarm to at

least one data receiving device or process computer; and

transmitting a first fault message generated by said fault alarm to the at

least one data receiving device or the process computer.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 further comprising sending said first

fault message only when said first fault signal is present in the fault alarm for a predetermined

period of time.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 further comprising generating a rising

signal while said first fault signal is present in said fault alarm, and sending said first fault

message only when said rising signal exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 further comprising sending a second fault message from said fault alarm in response to a second fault signal received after sending said first fault message, wherein said second fault message is sent only if a predetermined period of time has elapsed following the end of said first fault signal.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said first fault message is sent to the data receiving device and the process computer at different time intervals.

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the fault alarm box is connected to the plurality of spatially distributed stationary data receiving units.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the fault alarm box determines whether a fault signal should result in the issuance of a fault message.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein each data receiving unit is wirelessly connected to more than one of the plurality of spatially distributed production units.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the fault alarm is connected to the plurality of spatially distributed stationary data receiving units.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein each data receiving unit is wirelessly connected to more than one of the plurality of production units.